

By STUART EARP Wycombe Wanderers 4, Kingstonian 0

WYCOMBE Wanderers have jumped back into second place in the Rothmans Isthmian League Division One, thanks to a convincing 4-0 triumph over Kingstonian at Loakes Park on Saturday.

Although the teams below Wycombe have games in hand, the Blues made sure of three points in the bag on Saturday when they romped into a 3-0 lead after only 17 minutes. Things simmered down in the second half but Wanderers were always the superior side.

After last week's extremely disappointing defeat at home to Dulwich, Wycombe wanted to get right back into championship form. They certainly did that and added a £40 bonus from the sponsors for a three-clear-goal victory — their third of the season.

While not wishing to take anything away from this performance of Wycombe's, it must be stated that Kingstonian were a poor outfit. Credit should go to the Surrey men for a fighting second half display but the truth is, they were inferior to their opponents in every department.

It was only due to some heroic goalkeeping by Ian Bath that they kept the score down to 3-0 at half time for a truer reflection would have been at least double that. Kingstonian had no answer to the silky skills of the Wycombe side who looked likely to score every time they entered the visitors' penalty area.

Kingstonian's main failing was giving their opponents time and space in dangerous situations. On many occasions, Wycombe players were able to strike for goal unchallenged and this brought two goals in as many minutes. Despite playing four men in midfield, they still lost out to the work rate of Terry Reardon and Dave Alexander who used the ball well while Geoff Anthony and Tony Horseman made the most of the excellent service from midfield. The home defence needless to say, was in complete command allowing their goalkeeper John Maskell just one save to make in the first 45 minutes.

There were a few changes in the Blues team. Paul Birdseye returned at right back and Ray Eaton was given preference over Dave Bullock for the number three shirt. Alexander came in for the holidaying Mick Holifield.

In the Kingstonian side, Bath came in as 'keeper in preference to England cricketer Graham Roope while Paul Sussons turned out against his former colleagues at number six.

Wanderers soon showed they were keen to get the Dulwich performance out of their system. From a corner in the second minute Joe Fascione, the ex-Chelsea man, had to clear off the line from Keith Mead after John Delaney had headed through. Then, in the ninth minute, Wycombe went ahead.

Anthony curled the ball up to Alexander on the top wing. 'Alex' nodded forward and raced on towards the line before sending over a cross to Tony Horseman who took a step forward and drilled a shot into the net at the near post.

Hardly had the crowd settled before Wanderers cashed in again. This time Anthony supplied the cross from the top wing. Dylan Evans took the ball down and rammed a shot high into the net on the turn. Six minutes later Eaton did well to keep the ball in play on the flank and sent over a precision cross to the far post where Alexander looked certain to score. Bath flung himself full length to tip the header away for a corner. It was a short respite, for Wycombe scored their third goal from this flag kick in the 17th minute.

The corner was cleared out as far as Mead who headed the ball back to the six yard line. Delaney got another touch to the ball and Anthony acrobatically netted with an overhead kick.

Bath earned the applause of the 1,000 crowd with two out-

standing saves before half time. The first came from Horseman after 24 minutes. Right through the scanty defence, 'Bodger' drove for goal but saw Bath block his effort at point blank range. The second save was truly brilliant. Reardon received the ball 10 yards outside the box, looked up and drove in a measured shot of true precision. Bath couldn't have seen it until late yet still managed to launch himself and tip the ball over the crossbar.

For the remainder of the half, Wycombe contented themselves in chalking up 11 corners from one of which Barry Webb cleared a Delaney header off the line. Just before the break, Maskell came out to make his only save of the half — cutting out a cross from Stewart Esslemont.

As often happens when Wycombe are two or three goals ahead, they allowed the game to slip away from them in the second half — although they were never in danger of allowing Kingstonian back into the match. Credit should go to the visitors, however, for raising the game against impossible odds.

Their cause was helped after 10 minutes when John Delaney launched himself into a flying header and injured his shoulder. He had to leave the field but hospital treatment revealed only bruising and not the feared breakage. But Delaney's departure weakened Wycombe's strike power especially from set pieces. Reardon dropped into the centre back role while Bruce Macrae came on up front and Evans moved into midfield.

With Alan Kelsall and Fascione working really hard, Kingstonian dragged themselves

back into the game and Esslemont had a good chance to reduce the leeway but drove wide. Apart from their industry, however, the K's had little to offer as Wycombe continued to look more dangerous. Only a blatant trip by Webb outside the box robbed Anthony of another goal — but the Welshman was to make amends later.

Anthony, who enjoyed a fine game, got his reward in the 87th minute. Alexander intercepted a Paul Procter pass and sent the Welshman racing through the defence on the blind side. Geoff timed his shot perfectly and sent it past the helpless Ian Bath.

It could have been 5-0 in the last minute when Wanderers were awarded a penalty but Horseman showed he is human after all by missing his first spot kick in four years. Steve Perkins committed the offence, jostling Evans as he was about to volley for goal. Extrovert referee Vince McGowan, who always seems to enjoy himself as well as controlling the game nicely, immediately pointed to the spot but Horseman only half-hit his kick and Bath dived to save. I think he was the most surprised man on the field!

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, J. Delaney (sub B. Macrae 60 mins), R. Eaton; H. Kennedy, T. Reardon, D. Alexander; D. Evans, A. Horseman, G. Anthony.

KINGSTONIAN: I. Bath; A. Kelsall, P. Procter, B. Webb, S. Perkins; P. Sussons, P. Dade, J. Fascione, S. Esslemont; M. Cook (sub R. Beswick 45 mins), C. Proctor.

Referee: V. McGowan (London).

Half time: 3-0. **Goalscorers,** Wycombe — Horseman (9), Evans (11), Anthony 2 (17, 87).

Official paying attendance: 930. **Approx. total:** 1,200.

How they stand

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE											Penalty points	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	C	D			
Enfield	25	16	5	4	52	20	53	4	4			
Wycombe Wanderers	28	15	7	6	45	28	52	2	0			
Hendon	27	15	6	6	40	21	51	1	4			
Ilford	27	15	6	6	36	25	51	9	0			
Dagenham	25	15	4	6	58	33	49	2	0			
Dulwich Hamlet	30	15	3	12	52	31	48	3	4			
Slough Town	31	12	9	10	46	37	45	5	0			
Sutton United	23	12	6	5	49	23	41	7	0			
Tooting & Mitcham	22	12	5	5	39	23	41	5	8			
Barking	27	12	5	10	41	37	41	1	0			
Hitchin Town	30	10	8	12	30	37	38	1	0			
Staines Town	26	10	7	9	28	24	37	4	0			
Kingstonian	29	11	4	14	41	68	37	3	0			
Leatherhead	23	10	5	8	37	35	35	5	0			
Hayes	30	7	14	9	30	34	35	5	4			
Woking	30	10	4	16	44	48	34	8	4			
Bishop's Stortford	25	9	6	10	30	31	33	1	0			
Walthamstow Avenue	27	7	8	12	31	41	29	7	0			
Oxford City	29	7	8	14	21	41	29	3	0			
Southall & Ealing	26	6	6	14	36	45	24	2	0			
Leytonstone	30	5	9	16	23	46	24	5	0			
Clapton	32	2	1	29	11	88	7	7	0			